



**February 2005**

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## Gillmor Washington Update

As your Representative in Congress, I am proud to represent Ohio's Fifth Congressional District in Washington, DC.

In order to keep the citizens of the Fifth District better informed and up to date on my activities in Washington, DC and back home in Ohio, I have published the February edition of my monthly newsletter. It is my goal to provide you with the information you need to stay informed on the issues important to Ohio. In this edition of my Monthly Update, I have focused on the important events that have taken place in the month of January and inform you of upcoming February events in the Fifth District. I hope that you will find this information beneficial. Please contact me should you have any questions or comments.

## Focus On Your Family: The Broadcast Decency Enforcement Bill

This month, I joined many of my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee in cosponsoring the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Bill to return decent, family-friendly broadcast television and radio to families in America. The *Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2005* (BDEA), passed in the House of Representatives in 2004 by a vote of 391-22 before stalling in the U.S. Senate.

Events, such as last year's infamous Super Bowl XXXVIII halftime show, have increased the American public's awareness and demands to clean up the airwaves. The bill that I have cosponsored restores decency to America's broadcasting by giving the FCC the teeth it needs to enforce existing standards.



The BDEA allows the FCC to impose a fine up to \$500,000 against broadcasters and entertainers for every violation or broadcast of "obscene, indecent or profane material."

Americans have taken a closer look at the television performances of our entertainers and have decided that there are

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boundaries that must not be crossed. We are sending a clear message to television and radio broadcasters: using the public's airwaves comes with a responsibility to the American people. They must follow the FCC decency standards that apply to family-hour programming.

## Focus on the Fifth: Visiting the 180th Fighter Wing

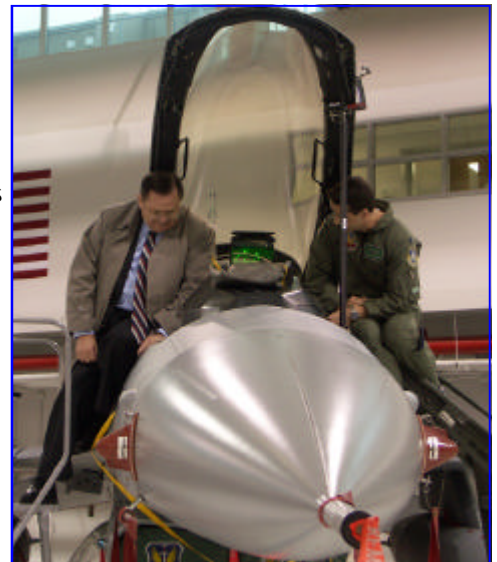
In January, I had the pleasure of touring the 180th Air National Guard Fighter Wing in Swanton, Ohio. During my visit to the base, I was given a briefing on the readiness of our Guard unit as well as a tour of the hangar which houses 17 F-16 Fighting Falcon jets.

While at the base, I announced my support of the efforts of the 180th Fighter Wing and provided copies of a letter sent to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and other administration officials which outlined the importance of the 180th to the citizens of the Fifth District.

In my letter to the Secretary, I listed many of the great attributes of the 180th Guard Base, among them, its employment of 1,048 people including more than 300 full-time employees with airmen who have served in Operation Provide Comfort and Operation Northern Watch over Iraq in 1996, 1998 and 1999.

The 180th is strategically located between Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago and Cincinnati. The base's central location makes it an ideal base for our area's security. It also provides \$71 million in direct and indirect economic impact to the Toledo area and Southern Michigan.

I was pleased and impressed by the facilities of the 180th Fighter Wing and have passed my sentiments on to the Department of Defense. I am confident in the security the 180th Air National Guard Base provides to the people of Northwest Ohio and the Fifth District.



*Congressman Gillmor checks out the cockpit of an Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon at the 180th Fighter Wing in Swanton.*

## In Washington: Ohioans celebrate the Inauguration in Washington

On Wednesday, January 20, 2005, I welcomed nearly 175 guests to my Fifth District Presidential Inaugural Reception in the foyer of the Rayburn House Office Building. Many of the guests in attendance were constituents of the Fifth District who had traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the inauguration of President George W. Bush.

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Although weather and security limited the access of many guests, I was pleased to welcome State Senator Lynn Wachtmann and his wife, State Representative Steve Buehrer and his wife as well as the 2005 winner of *The Apprentice*, Kelly Perdew.

Many of the guests at my reception also received tickets to the inauguration which they picked up when they visited my Congressional office located in the Longworth House Office Building. I was pleased to have the opportunity to greet guests in my office as well as speak with many citizens of the Fifth District at the Inaugural Reception.



Many pictures were taken at the inaugural reception in the Rayburn Foyer and are available for downloading from my website. Please visit [www.house.gov/gillmor](http://www.house.gov/gillmor) and click on *Special Event Photo File* on the *Newsroom* tab to download pictures of this and other Fifth District special events.

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## Your Congress: Gillmor Named Environment Subcommittee Chairman

For the 109th Congress, I have been reappointed Chairman of the Environment and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee on the Energy and Commerce Committee. I will also serve on two full committees and five subcommittees in the coming Congress, as well as serving as a Deputy Majority Whip. This will give me a heavier schedule than most Members of Congress, but I am looking forward to it because it gives me more opportunity to help our district.

In addition to my service as subcommittee chairman, I was assigned to the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet and the Subcommittee on Health.

As Chairman of the Environment and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, I will oversee legislation that relates to environmental protection including the Safe Drinking Water Act, solid waste, hazardous waste and toxic substances, and "Superfund" which aims to eliminate the health and environmental threats posed by hazardous waste sites. In addition, the subcommittee will oversee legislation that addresses mining, oil, gas and coal combustion wastes and noise pollution control.

I am honored to have been asked to head up the subcommittee once again. From this post, I will have the opportunity to positively affect legislation which protects human health and safety as well as our natural resources. On the Health subcommittee, I will be able to represent all Ohioans in the struggle to reform Medicaid, work to provide medical



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*Chairman  
Gillmor presides  
over the  
Subcommittee on  
Environment and  
Hazardous  
Materials.*

liability reform and monitor the implementation of the Medicare Prescription Drug plan.

On the Financial Services Committee, I was assigned to the Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Reform and the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions.

From my assignments on Energy and Commerce and Financial Services, I will be able to oversee and positively affect legislation that touches nearly all areas of the economy. The sustained success of the economy is not only a top priority for me but for the people that I represent.

## World Report: Free Elections in Iraq

Last month, the people of Iraq experienced a freedom that Americans have enjoyed for more than 200 years, democratic elections. On January 30, the Iraqi people went to the polls to elect a 275-member Transitional National Assembly (TNA) to serve as its national legislature. The TNA will name a Presidency Council which will consist of a President and two Vice Presidents. The Presidency Council will then appoint a Prime Minister and a cabinet.

14.3 million names were compiled in the voter registration list for the Iraqi elections with registration centers in fourteen different countries. Nearly 19,000 candidates registered to compete in the local and national elections. On Election Day, the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq was receiving advice from the UN Electoral Assistance Division. With military protection from 28 countries, a \$40 million pledge from Japan, \$38 million from the European Union and a \$40 million from the United States, global support for the Iraqi election was high.

The new government of Iraq will continue to receive assistance and support from the United States. However, our intention is not to frame a gov-



ernment for Iraq. Instead, we have empowered Iraqis to choose their own style of government. The Transitional National Assembly will design a Constitution to govern the people and deliver to them freedoms never before realized.

For the thousands of our sons and daughters, brothers and sisters or fa-

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thers and mothers who continue fighting to secure liberty in Iraq, these elections were a monumental step. These elections were a major Iraqi accomplishment in the struggle for sovereignty and self rule and a triumph for members of the American military.

During this important time for Iraq, the United States remains on guard, committed to ensuring freedom. While creating a democratic Iraq is a long-term effort, it is one to which we remain committed. As President Bush said in his second inaugural address, "when you stand for liberty, we will stand with you." The results of Iraqi sovereignty are a great victory for freedom in the world.

## In Washington: Praising the Presidential Inauguration

On January 20, 2005, our country celebrated democracy by the inauguration of President George W. Bush. This year's inauguration carried special meaning as we remain a country at war. The 55<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inaugural Swearing-In Ceremony was also the first inauguration to take place since the attacks on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Many people who attend inaugurations have special memories of them. For my wife, Karen, and I the 1984 Inauguration of Ronald Reagan especially stands out. Each of the 50 states has a special car in the Inaugural Parade and that year I was President of the Ohio Senate and my wife and I had the honor of representing Ohio in the parade.



Unfortunately, it was bitterly cold in Washington that year and because of the cold, the parade was cancelled for the first time since 1832. However, we did receive a nice consolation. The President and Mrs. Reagan invited the 50 of us to a special reception with them at the White House. It was a delightful event.

While this year's inauguration did not involve the transfer of power from



one administration to another, it was, nevertheless, vitally important to the history and preservation of our democracy. On Inauguration Day, President George W. Bush did as all the others before him by placing one hand on the bible and swearing allegiance to the people of the United States of America. At the conclusion of the oath, President Bush

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kept the tradition of George Washington in uttering the words "So help me God."

The presidential inauguration marks the conclusion of years of planning, campaigns and elections. After countless hours of battle by millions of Americans in support of their chosen candidate, the presidential inauguration marks a time for unity. January 20<sup>th</sup> was the final end of a contest between presidential candidates and the first day of the new administration.

A free election and peaceful transition are the hallmarks of our society. Inauguration day this year was an important event, symbolic of the strength of our union and the purity of our democracy.

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## SAVE THE DATE: Upcoming Academy Information Nights

Save the Date! I have scheduled United States service academy information nights for prospective applicants in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. The meetings will be held at Leipsic High School in Leipsic, Ohio, on Thursday, March 17, 2005 and at Clyde High School on Tuesday, March 22, 2005.

Representatives from the admissions offices of the U.S. Military, Naval, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine Academies have been invited to attend the information night. I would encourage all young people from the Fifth District who are interested in an academy appointment to attend the meeting.

The service academy information nights will afford interested students the opportunity to meet with academy representatives, as well as representatives from the Congressman's office to learn about the academy nomination and selection process.

One of my most fulfilling responsibilities is to nominate young men and women from the Fifth district for admission to our nation's service academies. My staff will be on hand to answer questions and may also be reached by calling my Tiffin office, toll-free, at (800) 541-6446.



*Congressman Gillmor speaks at the Academy Advisory Board meeting in December*



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## Focus on the Fifth: Two District Fire Departments Receive Over 112,000 in January Grants

In the past month, two district volunteer fire departments received 112,140 in grant money from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness.



These funds, made available by Congress, will be used to increase the effectiveness of fire fighting operations, fire fighter health and safety programs, new fire apparatus, EMS programs, and fire prevention and safety programs. Some awards may also be used towards training, equipment, wellness and fitness, and modifications to fire stations and facilities.

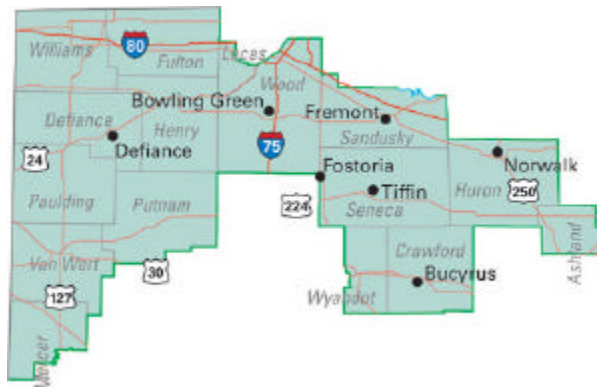
The two fire departments receiving awards throughout January include:

Ottawa	\$26,640
Central Joint	\$85,500

These grant monies will improve the effectiveness of firefighters in each of these areas and benefit citizens across the Fifth District of Ohio. Firefighters play a critical role ensuring the safety of our communities and these monies will help to deliver the resources necessary to excel in their mission.

## Contact Me

If you have any suggestions on topics you would like to see addressed in my monthly updates, require any additional information, or would like to inform me of your views on matters concerning the federal government, please contact me anytime in Washington, DC or in any of my Ohio offices.



If you wish to forward your questions or concerns via U.S. mail, please address your correspondence to one of my Ohio offices as mail sent to the Longworth House Office Building in Washington is subject to a lengthy screening process and may not reach my office in a timely manner.